



County of Riverside
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

P.O. BOX 7909 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92513-7909

STEVE VAN STOCKUM, DIRECTOR

Date: December 13, 2017

System No. 3301937

Mesquite Mutual Water Company
50334 Jackson St.
Coachella, CA 92236

Enclosed is Citation No. 05_63_17C_018 issued to Mesquite Mutual Water Company public water system.

Any person who is aggrieved by a Citation issued by the Riverside County LPA may file a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for reconsideration of the Citation. Petitions must be received by the State Water Board within 30 calendar days of the issuance of the Citation. The date of issuance is the date when the Riverside County LPA mails or serves a copy of the Citation, whichever occurs first. If the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition is due the following business day. Petitions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Information regarding filing petitions may be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/petitions/index.shtml

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (760) 863-7570.

Sincerely,

Jackie Jones, REHS
Environmental Health Specialist

Certified Mail: 7015 0640 0006 0766 5155



County of Riverside
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

P.O. BOX 7909 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92513-7909

STEVE VAN STOCKUM, DIRECTOR

**CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE – WATER SYSTEM NO. 3301937
NO. 05_63_17C_018**

Re: Mesquite Mutual Water Company
System No. 3301937

Date: December 13, 2017

To: Mesquite Mutual Water Company
50334 Jackson St.
Coachella, CA 92236

Section 116650, Article 9, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code (H&S Code), authorizes the issuance of a citation for failure to comply with the requirements of the California Safe Drinking Water Act, or any regulation, standard, permit order issued there under.

VIOLATION

The Department of Environmental Health (Department), hereby issues a citation to Mesquite Mutual Water Company for the following violation:

Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 64426.1 (b) (2). Specifically, Mesquite Mutual Water Company failed the Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) during the month of November 2017. For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples per month, more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive; or any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E.coli-positive; or any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E.coli-positive routine sample is total coliform-positive.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

This is a small community water system serving 17 residential connections (currently 16 are occupied).

The pump for the well went out in July 2015. From July 2015 to September 2016, Mesquite Mutual Water Company (Mesquite) was connected to Indio Water Authority (IWA) (#3310020) through a temporary high line. In September 2016, Mesquite changed the interim connection to Coachella Water Authority (CWA) (#3310007) through a temporary connection from a hydrant. All residential connections have been metered by CWA. CWA is currently working with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for funding to consolidate Mesquite.

Recent History:

On October 30, 2017, Mesquite Mutual received a Notice of Violation for failing to sample for the third quarter of 2017.

On November 6, 2017, Matt Rojo, the certified water operator, collected the fourth quarter bacteria sample. The sample was taken from the hose bib at 50-324 Jackson St. The laboratory was not able to reach the water system contact person to report the total coliform present result so they notified the Duty Officer at the Water Board. This Department was notified by the Water Board on November 9, 2017. On November 9, 2017, Jesus Fernandez, water system representative, was contacted by this Department and told to take 4 resamples. He was also informed to notify CWA of the total coliform present result.

On November 13, 2017, CWA increased the chlorine residual in this area.

On November 13, 2017, Rojo collected four resamples: 50-360 Jackson St, 50-500 Jackson St., 50-334 Jackson St. and 50-330 Jackson St.

On November 14, 2017, the laboratory notified Fernandez and reported a total coliform present/E.coli absent result at 50-334 Jackson St. The rest of the samples were total coliform absent. The total coliform present location was discussed with Fernandez. He stated that the hose bib was near the old well. The hose bib is not used and could represent dead lines near the disconnected old well. Fernandez was instructed to cap this hose bib and discontinue using it as a sample location. He was instructed to resample a home location near the old well. He was also informed to notify CWA of the total coliform present result.

On November 14, 2017, CWA provided bacteriological sampling results to this Department from the well that serves Mesquite Mutual. The well was sampled on November 6, 2017. The result was absent for total coliform bacteria.

As per the Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, a Level 1 Assessment was triggered after the November 13, 2017, results. It was completed by Fernandez on November 14, 2017. The summary attributed the cause of the total coliform results to be from a small pin hole leak in a fire hose that acts as a temporary high line for Mesquite Mutual.

On November 15, 2017, CWA increased the chlorination in this area and flushed the system.

On November 16, 2017, CWA changed out the fire hose that had a small leak. CWA also increased chlorination in this area and flushed the system. In addition, a resample was collected at 50-330 Jackson St. The result was total coliform absent. Fernandez stated that this location is a home downstream of the well site.

On November 20, 2017, Fernandez updated the Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan with this Department.

On December 11, 2017, five routine samples were collected: 50-360 Jackson St., 50-500 Jackson St., 50-320 Jackson St., 50-324 Jackson St., and 50-330 Jackson St. All results were absent for total coliform bacteria. The chain of custody stated that the chlorine residual was 0.2 ppm.

DIRECTIVES

Your public water system must be maintained so that the total coliform MCL is not violated. Continue to work with your certified water operator and CWA to prevent reoccurrence of this violation.

Due to the recent total coliform MCL violation and the Level 1 findings, this Department and Jesus Fernandez discussed resuming monthly bacteriological sampling. Sample the distribution system monthly. Follow your Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan.

Ensure the laboratory has the correct phone number for the contact person and the contact person is available to receive the analytical results 24-hours a day.

All consumers served by this water system must be notified of this violation, as required in Section 64426.1 (c). A Resolved Tier 2 Notice was submitted to Fernandez on November 20, 2017. The Department received a Proof of Notification on November 28, 2017. The notice indicated that the Tier 2 notice was hand delivered to the residents on November 22, 2017.

The required coliform bacteria follow-up sampling to an unsatisfactory routine sample is described below. This must be completed each and every time that a routine coliform bacteria sampling is unsatisfactory.

1. Within 24 hours of being notified of an unsatisfactory coliform bacteria result by your laboratory, collect four resamples. If you are unable to collect the resamples within 24 hours, contact this Department. Collect the resamples at the sample tap where the unsatisfactory sample was taken, an upstream sample within 5 service connections of the unsatisfactory site, a downstream sample within 5 service connections of the unsatisfactory site, and a sample at the source(s) of water for the distribution system.

All active wells must be sampled. If the direction of flow in the distribution system is not known, or if the distribution system is quite small, contact this Department for guidance.

2. If any of the resamples are unsatisfactory, additional sets of resamples must be taken. Contact this Department for guidance.
3. In the month following the unsatisfactory sample collect five coliform bacteria samples.

FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Failure to comply with this notice and/or failure to comply with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations may result in assessment of administrative penalties. This Department does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (760) 863-7570.



Jackie Jones, REHS

Environmental Health Specialist

Certified Mail: 7015 0640 0006 0766 5155

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Mesquite Mutual Water Company Has Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took six (6) samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during November 2017. Two (2) of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

A pin hole leak was found in one of the water supply hoses. Coachella Water Authority changed out the hose, increased the chlorine residual in our area and flushed the line. Additional samples do not show presence of coliform bacteria.

Additional bacteria samples will be taken in December.

For more information, please contact Jesus Fernandez at (760) 863-4362.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Mesquite Mutual Water System.

State Water System ID#: 3301937. Date distributed: _____.

PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

NAME OF WATER SYSTEM Mesquite Mutual Water Company

WATER SYSTEM NUMBER 3301937

As required by the California Health and Safety Code, this acknowledges that I have notified the users of this water system that the water supplied by Mesquite Mutual Water Company had levels of Coliform Bacteria above the Drinking Water Standard which is a violation of the California Safe Drinking Water Standards. The Tier 2 Notice was hand delivered to each resident.

This notification was made using the following method(s);

Verbal, to each customer/connection

Date completed _____

Public Posting of Notice

Date completed _____

Mail or Hand Delivery of a Written Notice

Date completed NOV. 22 2017 ^{SJF}

Public Newspaper or Media

Date completed _____

Jesus Fernandez

Print Name



Signature of Water System Representative